

AMENDMENTS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 46. Canceled

47. (Currently Amended) ~~A supple, globally flexible and locally hard~~ An article of clothing to be worn over a curved body portion, including shirts, pants, jackets, wet suits, knee pads, gloves and aprons, the article including a curved exterior portion formed from flexible and abrasion resistant composite fabric, the composite fabric comprising:

a flexible woven substrate having an abrasion resistance and sufficient flexibility to be conformable to the curved exterior portion of the article from a planar configuration;

an array of small, generally uniform thickness, non-overlapping, hard, convex geometric-shaped, printed polymer thermoset resin material guard plates arranged in a predetermined pattern, separated by gaps, and having an area with major and minor dimensions, on a substantial portion of a surface of the substrate, the polymer resin material of the guard plates partially penetrating into the woven substrate across the entire area of the guard plates to provide a mechanical bond between the guard plates and the substrate to prevent detaching of the guard plates from the substrate when the substrate composite fabric is conformed to the curved state and flexed, having an area parallel to the substrate with a major dimension to minor dimension aspect ratio between about 3 2 and 1, wherein a width of the gaps is between 30 mils and 50 mils, a largest distance between adjacent guard plates is less than the lengths of the minor dimensions the thickness of the guard plates is substantially between 5 and 20 mils and is less than the lengths of the minor dimensions, the minor

dimensions are ~~less than about 100~~ between 60 and 100 mils, the guard plates are substantially harder than the substrate such that overall flexibility of the composite fabric is substantially determined by the flexibility of the substrate and the distances between the guard plates, and the overall abrasion resistance of the composite fabric is substantially at least 10 times greater than the abrasion resistance of the substrate.

48. (Currently Amended) The ~~supple, abrasion resistant fabric~~ article of clothing of claim 47 wherein the guard plates have minor dimensions between about 50 70 mils and about ~~100~~ 90 mils.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The ~~supple, abrasion resistant fabric~~ article of clothing of claim 48 wherein the guard plates have a major dimension to minor dimension aspect ratio of ~~about 1~~ between 1 and 1 1/2.

51. – 53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) The ~~supple, abrasion resistant fabric~~ article of clothing of claim 47 wherein:

the guard plates have a major dimension to minor dimension aspect ratio of between ~~about 2 and 1~~ 1 and 1 1/2;

the guard plates have minor dimensions ~~less than or equal to about 80~~ between 75 and 85 mils;

~~the largest distance between the guard plates is less than or equal to about 14 mils~~
widths of the gaps is between 35 and 45 mils; and

the thickness of the guard plates is ~~less than about 15~~ between 10 and 15 mils.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) The ~~supple, abrasion-resistant fabric~~ article of clothing of claim 47 wherein the polymer guard plates comprise heat resistant material.

57. (Currently Amended) The ~~supple, abrasion-resistant fabric~~ article of clothing of claim 47 and further including abrasion resistant additive material in the ~~polymer~~ resin guard plates.

58. - 63 (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) The ~~supple, abrasion-resistant fabric~~ article of clothing of claim 47 wherein the guard plates are polygon-shaped with all interior angles of the polygons greater than or equal to ~~about~~ 40 degrees.

65. (Canceled)

66. (New) The article of clothing of claim 47 wherein the width of the gaps is between 35 and 45 mils.

67. (New) The article of clothing of claim 66 wherein the guard plates have minor dimensions between about 70 and 90 mils.

68. (New) The article of clothing of claim 47 wherein the width of the gaps is between 38 and 42 mils.

69. (New) The article of clothing of claim 68 wherein the guard plates have minor dimensions between about 75 and 85 mils.